

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-59 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 27-30, and 56-59, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, specifically at page 14, lines 25-30.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicant is entitled.

II. SUPPORT FOR THIS AMENDMENT

Citations to Figures and Specification locations are provided. However, such citations are provided merely as examples and are not intended to limit the interpretation of the claims or to evidence or create any estoppel.

As an example, support of the amendment can be found at page 14, lines 25-30 of the Specification, which is reproduced as follows:

Page 14, lines 25-30, An event triggers the termination of the link, block 505. The triggering event can be a request from either of the users of the linked accounts or an event that causes the server to determine the link is to be terminated. The server has one or more rules which trigger the termination of links. For example, if one of the users misuses an account, the server may decide to terminate the link. In another example, when either of the user systems disconnects from the server, the server terminates the link.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0243665 to Markki, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Markki”) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0056093 to Huitema, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Huitema”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,758,746 to Hunter, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Hunter”).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

wherein when the first account disconnects from the network, the link between the first account and the second account is terminated and the granted at least one privilege to the second account is removed from the second account. (Emphasis added)

Applicant submits that Markki, Huitema, and Hunter, taken either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or render predictable the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, nothing is found that discloses or renders predictable “**wherein when the first account disconnects from the network, the link between the first account and the second account is terminated and the granted at least one privilege to the second account is removed from the second account,**” as recited in claim 1.

Markki (see paragraph [0016] of Markki) limits to a peer-to-peer network, in which each node has equivalent capabilities and/or responsibilities. Markki's node has access to various services by joining a specific group. (see paragraph [0024] of Markki). As each node of Markki has the same capabilities and responsibilities, a disconnection of a node from the specific group does not affect the capabilities and responsibilities of another node in the same group. In contrast, claim 1 recites **"wherein when the first account disconnects from the network, the link between the first account and the second account is terminated and the granted at least one privilege to the second account is removed from the second account."**

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable.

For similar reasons as those described above, claims 27-30 and 56-59 are also patentable.

As nothing in the prior art cited in the Office Action cures the above-identified deficiencies, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. As nothing in the prior art cited in the Office Action cures the above-identified deficiencies, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections. As each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Because Applicant maintains that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

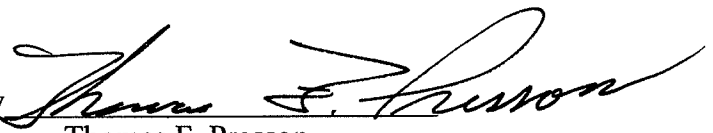
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800